

Time Spent on the Board Has Been a Fun, Learning Experience for New Chair

It so happens that our Advocate member profile is on the man who has recently been elected chair of ORSSAB for FY 2010.

Ron Murphree was chosen unanimously to lead the board at the September meeting.

Ron joined the board in June 2006 and has been a valuable, contributing member on the EM Committee, serving as chair of the committee the last two years.

“It’s been fun, really good,” he says of his experience. “Like anything else you get out of it what you put into it. If you want to study and learn about the issues and participate it’s a lot, but not overwhelming. The biggest challenge is learning all the technical stuff, the jargon, the acronyms, who reports to whom, and so on. But it’s

fun to learn and be exposed to things a lot of people may not know about.”

Ron is a West Tennessee native of Milan, leaving home at 17 to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served seven years in the Army as a platoon leader, company commander, and finishing his military service in the Corps of Engineers Area Office in Ft. Benning, Ga. He remained with the Corps of Engineers a few years in the Civil Service after he left the Army.



New ORSSAB Chair Ron Murphree in his office at Denark Construction in Knoxville where he is chief estimator.

While in Georgia he received an MBA from Georgia State University and then worked at the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tenn. After

leaving the Civil Service he worked for general contractors in Oklahoma and Texas, returning to Nashville in 1986, and coming to work for Denark Construction in Knoxville in 1996.

As chief estimator for Denark he has worked on such notable projects as Smokies Stadium near Sevierville, the Knoxville Convention Center, the Knoxville News Sentinel Building, and the Tennessee Theatre renovation.

As the chair for FY 2010 Ron says the board will be kept busy keeping up with the Recovery Act projects as well as IFDP work. “I’ve talked with [DOE liaison] Dave Adler about providing the board monthly updates on Recovery Act work.

“I’d like to see some sort of resolution toward the cleanup of Bear Creek Valley, although I don’t think that will happen during my tenure as chair. I think we’ll see some steps taken toward the expansion of the on-site waste facility in Bear Creek Valley.”

Ron and wife Penny live in Knoxville and are big University of Tennessee football and basketball fans. They have two adult children, Amanda and Blake. Ron is active in Sertoma International and is an avid cyclist, sometimes pedaling 50 miles at a stretch.

He is a 10-year member of the American Society of Professional Estimators and is currently the society’s southeast regional representative to the Standards Board. He has also served as the society’s southeast regional governor.

Follow the progress of Environmental Management and Recovery Act activities in two new DOE publications

You can stay up-to-date on the latest cleanup activities around the DOE complex as well as how recovery funds are being used through the EM Update and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Newsletters.

Both publications are available online at <http://www.em.doe.gov/pages/emhome.aspx>

